

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 05165 171037Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 /038 W
----- 041959 /53
R 170950Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6980
INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KATHMANDU 5165

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT PINS NP
SUBJECT: B. P. KOIRALA RETURN

REF: KATHMANDU 5044

1. WE HAVE HEARD FROM RELIABLE SOURCES THAT B. P. KOIRALA AND GANESH MAN SINGH, TWO EXILED LEADERS OF THE NEPALI CONGRESS PARTY, ARE SCHEDULED TO RETURN TO KATHMANDU ON DECEMBER 20 VIA INDIAN AIRLINES FLIGHT FROM PATNA. ACCORDING TO SOURCES KOIRALA EXPECTS TO BE ARRESTED AND HAS ASKED THAT CONGRESS PARTY MEMBERS IN KATHMANDU MEET HIM AT AIRPORT WITH WARM CLOTHING HE WOULD REQUIRE IN JAIL.

2. IN CONSTITUTION DAY MESSAGE KING BIRENDRA SAID THAT PANCHAYAT SYSTEM WILL NOT CLOSE ITS DOORS ON THOSE WHO "WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE FUNDAMENTAL CHARACTER AND EMBRACE THE VALUES OF THE SYSTEM BY PLEDGING THEMSELVES TO SERVE THE NATION IN EARNEST." THIS IS SLIGHTLY LESS RESTRICTIVE OFFER OF AMNESTY WHICH KING MADE IN SIMILAR ADDRESS A YEAR AGO IN WHICH EXILES WERE ASKED TO PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO PANCHAYAT SYSTEM. ALTHOUGH NEW FORMULATION MAY NOT REQUIRE FORMAL PLEDGE TO UPHOLD PARTYLESS POLITICAL SYSTEM IN NEPAL, IT APPEARS TO US TO BE INCOMPATIBLE WITH DEMANDS OF CONGRESS
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PARTY LEADERSHIP AND DOES NOT OFFER SUFFICIENT LATITUDE FOR AMNESTY TO B.P. OR OTHER TOP LEADERS. WE WOULD, THEREFORE, SHARE KOIRALA'S ASSESSMENT THAT HE FACES ARREST SHOULD HE RETURN ON DECEMBER 20.
MAYTAG

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: vogelfj
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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